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preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 16 May 1996 from the representatives of Kazakstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Joint Russian-Kazak (Almaty) Declaration (see annex I) and the Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Use of the Caspian Sea (see annex II), which were adopted in Almaty on 27 April 1996.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 41 and 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Yu. FEDOTOV
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX I

Joint Russian-Kazak (Almaty) Declaration, adopted on 27 April 1996

The Presidents of the friendly States, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan,

Resolved to form a strategic partnership and develop relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutual cooperation on the basis of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Reaffirming their commitment to the values of freedom, democracy, supremacy of law and respect for human rights,

Declare:

The signing in Moscow on 29 March 1996 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the Deepening of Integration in the Economic and Humanitarian Fields attests to the fact that relations between the Russian Federation and Kazakstan and other States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have reached a new level.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan are confident that that instrument will give a new impetus to the further integration of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We are referring to the desire of the peoples and States of the Commonwealth to make more effective use of their material and intellectual potential with a view to stimulating their economies, raising their standard of living and ensuring sustainable democratic development.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan reaffirm their commitment to the principles set forth in the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 25 May 1992 and the joint Declaration on the Broadening and Deepening of Kazak-Russian Cooperation of 20 January 1995 and declare their intention to continue to follow strictly their provisions.

On the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992 and guided by the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan on Military Cooperation of 28 March 1994, the Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall continue to adhere to the principles of concerted efforts to strengthen regional security and development of cooperation in the field of defence.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall continue their interaction in the field of foreign policy, bearing in mind the coordination of their positions on international and regional issues of common interest, as well as the coordination of their activities in international organizations.

The peoples of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan, exercising their right to self-determination, have established free and sovereign States. The will of

the peoples of the two countries and their understanding of their historical destiny are reflected in their participation in the process of representative democracy. The democratic transformations and economic reforms being carried out by the Russian Federation and Kazakstan are of great importance for the future of the peoples of the two countries. The deepening of integration on the basis of respect for sovereignty, independence, observance of the principles of territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs is a major factor in the social and economic development of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan.

The Russian Federation and Kazakstan shall strictly observe the rights and freedoms of the individual, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of nationality, and shall promote the development of contacts between the citizens of the two countries, as well as scientific and cultural exchanges. The two States shall continue to oppose resolutely any manifestations of national extremism, chauvinism or separatism. Particular attention shall be given to the broadening of cooperation in the field of the social protection, equalization of pensions, benefits and privileges for war and labour veterans, and support for disabled persons and poor families.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakstan are confident that the development between them of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in keeping with the basic interests of the multi-ethnic peoples of the two States and is a reliable incentive for and a guarantee of the success of the integration processes within the Commonwealth of Independent States and an important contribution to the safeguarding of security and stability in Central Asia.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
President of the
Republic of Kazakstan

ANNEX II

Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Use of the Caspian Sea, adopted in Almaty on 27 April 1996

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, and the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbaev, having discussed, in Almaty on 27 April 1996, questions relating to the legal status of the Caspian Sea and the development of cooperation between the countries bordering the Caspian Sea, have reached the following understanding:

1. The Parties consider that their immediate task is to conclude a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea. The new legal status of the Caspian must be defined by the States that border the Caspian Sea on the basis of consensus. No one has the right to decide the question of the legal status of the Caspian Sea on a unilateral basis. As a comprehensive decision, the legal status must include the regulation of questions of navigation, the use of biological and mineral resources, and ecology, including the rise in the sea level and the definition of the jurisdictional limits of the littoral States.

The drafting of the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea will be conducive to the conclusion of agreements on separate aspects of activities on the Caspian Sea.

2. The Parties agree that the activities of the littoral States on the Caspian Sea must be conducted in keeping with the following principles:

- in their relations, the States bordering the Caspian Sea shall respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the sovereign equality of States and the non-use of force or threat of the use of force;

- the use of the Caspian for exclusively peaceful purposes;

- the maintenance of the Caspian Sea as a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation, and the peaceful settlement of all questions concerning the Caspian Sea;

- the protection of the environment and the prevention of the pollution of the Caspian Sea;

- the responsibility of the States bordering the Caspian Sea for any damage to the environment or each other as a result of their use of the Caspian Sea and exploitation of its resources;

- the freedom and safety of commercial shipping by States bordering the Caspian Sea;

- and the observance of any other principles that they may agree on among themselves.

3. The Parties agree that only vessels belonging to the States bordering the Caspian Sea may sail on the Caspian Sea.

The procedure and conditions for navigation on the Caspian shall be defined in separate agreements.

4. The Parties are convinced that the joint participation in the exploitation of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea is in keeping with their mutual interests. They recognize each other's right to carry out activities with a view to exploiting the mineral and biological resources of the Caspian Sea and shall exchange concrete proposals on the development of mutually advantageous cooperation in accordance with an agreed programme, including geophysical and geological survey activities and the exploitation of hydrocarbon deposits, bearing in mind the experience and capabilities of the Parties.

5. The Parties are in favour of intensifying, and raising the level of, negotiations between the States bordering the Caspian Sea with respect to the legal status of the Caspian Sea and to this end endorse the proposal to hold a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five littoral States to consider the legal status of the Caspian Sea and other related questions.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
President of the
Republic of Kazakstan